



VOL. 52 / MARCH 2017

State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas

INFO FIRE



2017 CONFERENCE EDITION

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2017 CONFERENCE EDITION

2016 - 2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT HENRY PERRY
PO Box 88
Bastrop, TX 78602-0088
W: 512.321.5550
C: 512.848.7319
Email: hperry@sffma.org

1st VICE PRESIDENT HARVIE CHESHIRE
1100 Merry Oaks Dr.
College Station, TX 77840-2607
W: 979.862.7440
C: 979.324.4336
Email: hcheshire@sffma.org

2nd VICE PRESIDENT MIKE RICHARDSON
608 County Road 4460
Decatur, TX 76234-8138
W: 940.627.3199
C: 940.255.5034
Email: mrichardson@sffma.org

3rd VICE PRESIDENT TIM SMITH
PO Box 98044
Lubbock, TX 79499-8044
W: 806.797.0412
C: 806.786.0166
Email: tsmith@sffma.org

4th VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD VAN WINKLE
PO Box 296
Alvarado, TX 76009-0296
W: 817.790.8884
C: 817.538.2313
Email: rvanwinkle@sffma.org

SECRETARY JOE ONDRASEK
5572 Caroline Dr.
Bryan, TX 77807-7806
W: 979.775.0194
C: 979.820.1038
Email: jondrasek@sffma.org

ASSISTANT SECRETARY F. JIM WHITE
304 E. Mundy St.
Overton, TX 75684-1734
H: 903.834.3457
Email: jwhite@sffma.org

CHAPLAIN BEN KENNEDY
4210 Camber Ct.
College Station, TX 77845
W: 979.229.1263
C: 979.458.4603
Email: bkennedy@sffma.org

PAST PRESIDENT PAUL HAMILTON
PO Box 364
Bushland, TX 79012-0364
W: 806.383.3373
C: 806.640.2195
Email: phamilton@sffma.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BARRON
PO Box 1709
Manchaca, TX 78652-1709
W: 512.454.3473
F: 512.453.1876
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

MASCOT ASHLYNN WOBUS
PO Box 252
La Grange, TX 78945
Email: ashlynnwobus@yahoo.com

BOARD APPOINTED PARLIAMENTARIAN RAYFORD W. GIBSON
PO Box 774
Tatum, TX 75691-0774
W: 979.229.8134
H: 903.947.2831
Email: rgibson@sffma.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



I'm going to do something a little different with this article I have never done before. Normally, I write about updates with the association, programs

or projects going on, etc.. Not this time! You will see updates throughout our magazine and website, so there is no need to repeat things here.

Have you ever thought about if what you are doing in your department, or for yourself, is making a difference in your life or in the lives of others? Are you seeing results from efforts whether it is at work, in your community or for yourself? If not, isn't it time to make a difference?

Each year, hundreds of firefighters die due to cardiac arrests, trauma, etc. But did you know that one of the biggest killers of the fire/EMS service is suicide? According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, in 2016, the number of suicides in our industry were reported at over 132 cases. That's more than the number of LODDs for the year! Why is that? We all see some BAD stuff, we work some weird hours, and we go from being totally sound asleep to driving Code 3 with lights flashing, sirens blaring and our heart racing in a matter of seconds! In addition, the stresses of

our jobs, balancing home life, job, and FD life can all take a toll on our physical and mental health. You might be thinking, "I didn't know those statistics, and they are alarming!" or, "We are all tough guys/gals in our department and we will never have an issue."

I can attest to the fact that when you think you or your department are not vulnerable to the unthinkable, think again. It CAN happen! I personally lost two former firefighters due to suicide and looking back, some of the signs/symptoms were evident, but some were not. So, as a firefighter, officer or chief, ask yourself, "Do I need help?" or can you identify someone that might need help? I think one of the greatest tools/resources that has come out of the National Volunteer Fire Council in recent years is the "Share-The-Load" Program. (See page 32 for additional information.) This program provides emergency services personnel with resources, tips, tools and a hotline number that responders can call 24-hours a day to get connected with another emergency services person to help with a potentially deadly situation.

Isn't it time we start doing something about the "Silent Killers" that are killing our firefighters, friends and loved ones? The mental and physical stresses of life are taking way too many of our friends, and we, as a profession, need to do something about it to slow down – if not stop – the trend. What can we do?

continued on page 4



Front row from L to R: Henry Perry, Harvie Cheshire, Mike Richardson, Tim Smith and Richard Van Winkle.
Back row from L to R: Chris Barron, Rayford Gibson, Ben Kennedy, Ashlynn Wobus, Joe Ondrasek, F. Jim White and Paul Hamilton.



PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Here it is, time for the spring magazine, and we are in the middle of planning one of the best conventions we hope to have for all our members.

San Marcos will be an action-packed, fun-filled adventure. Hopefully, we will have an opportunity for all guests attending the presidents' reception/pasture party to go tubing on the San Marcos River. It should be an adventure to taste some of the great things this convention has to offer.

Visiting with the speaker selection committee, I've learned that we will have some new and condensed training tracks for the convention. This will be the first time that we will have two days of hands-on skills training offered at the convention. It is also a possibility, at the time of this letter, that a 16-hour National Fire Academy class will be offered. In the fall of last year, the Executive Board requested that the training tracks be narrowed down, and indeed this has been done for our convention.

This year there will be by-law proposals on the ballot to be voted on by the delegates that are in attendance at the convention. Personally, I suggest that you review these with your home department, home district and your delegates. Our association is long on membership and short on delegates attending the convention. Let's do what is best for the association and its membership.

It is now time for me to thank all of those that have helped me through the last five years. Wow, five years already. My term is almost over and it seems like I just got started. As all the past presidents have said, it goes by SO fast, and it has been fast. Now, to all those that helped me. I would like to thank my family – without you this would not have been possible. I would also like to thank my departments: Bastrop, Bastrop ESD #1, Bastrop ESD #2, and chiefs Dave Fox, Mark Wobus, Brandon Bancroft, Jay Schwartz, Curtis Powell, Cary Roccaforte and Josh Gill. Throughout my tenure on the board, you each have done everything you could to help me get where I am, encouraging me and keeping me focused and on track.

A huge thank-you to my executive boards – without you, this association would not continue to grow and prosper. Without your vision and leadership, we would not have a recognized certification program that is equal to, and meets, a national standard for our members. This change has had its problems and potholes to jump, but now we have an excellent program that works, with a tracking program that works.

Office staff, what can I say? You have outperformed my expectations, doing much more with fewer personnel. You have all just jumped off the chart to help me and keep this great association going. This last year has been a tough one, and hopefully, you will each get to enjoy the convention. Gabi, Julie, Kevin, Jon and Luis. Keep up the good work for the firefighters of this great state.

Executive Director Barron, you are a blessing to this association. We have had good and bad conversations, but we always come out of them with a smile and an agreement. This association is in a better place because of your everyday leadership and guidance. It has been my pleasure to work with you, and I have always learned something that I could take with me to the next meeting to make this association better for the fire service of Texas.

Well, it is time for me to quit rambling and finish this article. To Macey, Chelsea, Brad, Tayler, Garret, Dylan, Andrew, Jaws, Melissa, Trinkia, and Faith – thank you again, you are all my rocks. Love all of you to the moon and back.

See all of you in San Marcos for a great convention. Stay safe in your duties and have safe travels.

Henry Perry
President 2017

SFFMA STAFF

CHRIS BARRON

Executive Director
W: 512.454.3473 ext. 101
Email: cbarron@sffma.org

GABI GLASS, CMP

Event Coordinator
W: 512.454.3473 ext. 102
Email: gglass@sffma.org

KEVIN CREAMER

*Certification Administrator/
Industrial Coordinator*
W: 512.454.3473 ext. 103
Email: kcreamers@sffma.org

LUIS MARTINEZ

SFFMA International Coordinator
W: 512.454.3473 ext. 104
Email: lmartinez@sffma.org

JULIE BEAUCHAMP

Sales Manager
W: 512.454.3473 ext. 105
Email: jbeauchamp@sffma.org

JON BARRON

Facilitator
W: 512.454.3473 ext. 109
Email: jbarron@sffma.org

e-INFO

**WOULD YOU LIKE
TO STAY
CONNECTED
BUT YOU NO LONGER
RECEIVE OUR EMAILS?**

**EMAIL
NEWSLETTER@SFFMA.ORG**

PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

June 11, 2017

6 - 9 p.m.

Old Fish Hatchery, San Marcos, TX

DINNER, DRINKS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FORUM/MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

continued from page 2

Take Steps NOW:

Recognize	Action
Recognize the Signs/Symptoms of the BAD in Yourself or Your Firefighters! (Depression, PTSD, Substance Abuse, Anxiety, Stress, Change in Behavior)	Get Help! For FREE! http://www.nvfc.org/share-the-load-resources/ Fire/EMS Helpline – 1-888-731-FIRE (3473) Does your work offer an employee assistance program?
Is Your Weight/Health NOT Optimal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When was the last time you had a checkup?• Have you had a heart scan?• Does your family have a history of heart problems?
I Want to be in Better Shape for My Job and for My Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start walking/jogging• Get involved in a gym or fitness center• Schedule a time with a personal trainer• Get into a fitness routine
My Firefighters Need Some Help/Guidance with Their Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check with a local doctor's office/nutrition center to see if they would be willing to help your department• Apply for grants (VFIS/TX Mutual Insurance Co Health and Safety Grants)• Schedule short work-outs to include the basics – push-ups/sit-ups/short jogs and stretching before the beginning of a training
Cancer Causing Stuff!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you doing an initial decontamination of firefighters while at the scene? (wash down/scrubbing gear)• Have you thought about issuing at least two hoods to every firefighter?• Putting baby wipes on an apparatus so that firefighters can wipe off their face, neck and hands of soot/debris

Whether we need to do things differently for ourselves or for others, it takes:

- Initiative to do so
- Reaching out to get the tools, personnel or equipment to make it happen
- Follow-through to actually see what we envision becomes a reality

I encourage you that if there is something you have been wanting to do all your life to make yourself better, or if there are services you've always wanted to implement to improve in your community, put your mind to it and give it a try! Oftentimes we are held back by the negative forces of "I can't," or "It won't work." If we can get past this mindset of thinking, we CAN make a difference! We can start to feel better, we can start to improve our services, and we CAN slow down the silent killers in our profession.


Chief Chris Barron
Executive Director

SFFMA Community,

As the newest addition to this wonderful group, it has been a great pleasure for me to help with managing the membership department of SFFMA. It has been easy to acclimate to the environment, given that everyone has been very welcoming and the atmosphere as a whole has been energizing. I will strive to continue to provide the excellent service that my peers have given you all for years. As our members, you deserve the same effort we receive from you.

I wanted to take the time to comment on a few things in the membership department as well. We are getting ready to send out second notices for membership renewals, and I just wanted to remind everyone that as of January 1, 2017, if you have not renewed your membership, then you currently do not have access to your regular membership opportunities. Membership is \$30 per person, and our association accepts cards, checks, and cash as a form of payment for your renewals. You can also pay for your individual membership directly, through our online portal located on our sffma.org page. The process is much quicker, and you receive the same amount of content through the mail as the people who call in for their payments.

I would like to remind the chiefs and coordinators that if you would like to add new members to your roster, simply add their name, birthdate, and last four of their social on the roster sheet you submit for payment. We are more than happy to make these adjustments for you at the office, but you are also welcome to make the adjustments personally through your department's roster on the sffmaonline.org page. There, you can update the roster on your computer, and all the changes are in real-time, so they will automatically adjust in our computers as well. If you have any questions pertaining to membership, you are more than welcome to contact us through our email: membership@sffma.org.

I extend my warmest thank-you to everyone who has contributed to the amazing experience I have had thus far. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns in regards to anything in the association, do not hesitate in contacting me through my email: lmartinez@sffma.org, or our office's number, 512-454-3473. I hope everyone continues to have a great and prosperous year, we are continuously thankful for all of your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Luis Martinez

International/Membership Coordinator
State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association

VFIS of Texas & Texas Mutual Distribute \$228,000 to Safety, Training & Wellness Grant Recipients



VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company recently awarded \$228,000 in grants to 90 emergency responder organizations across Texas. Funds awarded through the 2017 Emergency Responder Safety, Training & Wellness Grant Program will reimburse these organizations for 2017 individual member certification dues, as well as health and wellness programs, and travel costs to attend training.

Grants of up to \$5,000 have been awarded based on financial need and are intended to encourage all departments to participate in certification, training and health/wellness programs to prevent emergency responder deaths and injuries.

This is the fourth consecutive year of this grant program sponsored by VFIS of Texas and Texas Mutual Insurance Company. Since 2014, close to \$500,000 has been distributed to emergency service organizations across the state of Texas.



IN MEMORIAM

Center FD James William Forbes A. M. Bo Scott, Jr.	July 7, 2016 July 14, 2016
Freer FD Chief James Finney	November 21, 2016
Hitchcock VFD Walter Sander, Jr.	January 11, 2017
Myra VFD Leon Fuhrmann	August 5, 2016
Nueces County ESD#2 Jimmie Martinez	November 7, 2016
Nursery FD Samuel Banda	January 8, 2017
Oplin VFD Pam Rumfield	July 2, 2016
Pasadena VFD Chief Everett Williams Robert Allen Hunt Joe Hogue Chief Jay Goyer Billy Newberry James May David Kitch Marvin "Bud" Conrad Chief Jerry Gardner	June 17, 2014 December 14, 2014 March 6, 2015 June 16, 2015 December 20, 2015 March 22, 2016 March 23, 2016 June 13, 2016 November 22, 2016



America's (and Texas's) heroes do it again! Thank-you to the members of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas for everything you are doing in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy, ALS, and related neuromuscular diseases.

The dollars you raised in 2016 through the Fill the Boot campaign helped MDA fund nineteen local clinics, four MDA Summer Camps, twenty-three support groups, assistance with durable medical equipment and helped support millions of dollars of research including three major MDA ALS Research Centers, all in Texas. All of this is provided free of charge to the families served by MDA and you help to make this possible!

The members of the SFFMA are a special group of individuals and it is evident how much you care about the thousands of Texas families affected by muscle disease. Each of you should be very proud of how you have helped MDA particularly in the area of research. Last year two new drugs received FDA approval and already this year another drug has been approved. There are very promising trials going on right now on Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, ALS and others. As we begin developing treatments and cures, the members of the SFFMA will deserve credit for playing a significant part in that success!

MDA families count on your support again this year and until the fight is won! God bless you for all you do for your communities and all you do for MDA! Here's to a great convention and a great 2017!

ONLINE 3.1 UPDATE

Transfer of objective completion data from the older site to the new 3.1 site started on February 27. Data is moving 24/7 on the in-house servers, including running in the background during staff hours. Based on the transfer rate, all of the 2016 objectives should complete by mid-April. Older objectives will transfer in date order (most recent first) until project completion.

Austin staff post applications received for processing as of January 1, including enrollment into certifications, posting of coursework documentation, and application/fee receipt information. Please allow a little extra time for processing of application as we are needing to "relearn" how to process the applications and documentation along with the membership. Current review time is running about 40-45 days from receipt.

Moving forward, coordinators should upload any course completion certificates through the 3.1 system for staff approval prior to submitting the application forms (where available). The primary reason for requesting prior upload is to cut down on the number of mistaken submissions that we are then not able to issue. For certifications not yet listed on the site, please fax or e-mail the applications for processing. Fax or e-mail reduces the delay caused by sending through regular mail.

Kevin Creamer
Certification Administrator/
Industrial Coordinator

VERNON "BLONDY" RUCKER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY

June 12, 2017, 10 A.M.

Quail Creek Golf Course
2701 Airport Highway 21,
San Marcos, TX 78666

REGISTRATION FEE: \$75 per person
Registration form is available online at www.sffma.org

2017 ANNUAL AWARDS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department MUST be a member of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominee MUST hold current individual membership with SFFMA.

Each nominee will be considered on a point system to determine the three finalists. The areas to be considered are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Leadership abilities, including <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Leadership positions held-Work knowledge-Communications-Creativity and innovation-Attitude-Interaction with others | 3) Involvement in SFFMA, both state and district level |
| 2) Dedication to training and/or introduction of new and innovative training methods | 4) Community involvement, both church and civic |
| | 5) Heroism in a fire-related act or act of bravery |
| | 6) Accomplishments/awards received |
| | 7) Certifications held |
| | 8) Letters of recommendation (no more than four please) |
| | 9) Pictures may be submitted (no more than four please) |

All nominations must be submitted to local districts by a fire department on or before the district's spring meeting. Submissions must be received with a letter from the fire department and signed by either the fire chief, assistant chief or president.

One nominee from each district should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the state SFFMA office no later than the fourth Monday in May. Submissions must be received with a letter from the district and must be signed by the district president or secretary.

The SFFMA office will log the submissions as received and leave them unopened. The FFOY committee will meet during the last week of May to open the submissions and to select the three finalists based on the above-noted criteria. The nominees will be notified of the results. The three finalists will be interviewed by the FFOY committee on Saturday morning at the state convention. All nominees will be recognized and the winner will be announced on Sunday at the opening business session. All submissions will be returned to the districts after the state convention.

EMS RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Nominee's department or agency must be a current active member of the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

Nominees must hold current individual membership in the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas.

A nominee could be considered because of past heroism in an EMS-related act, act of bravery, dedication to training, or introduction of new and innovative training methods. Leadership abilities to be considered are:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Work knowledge | 4) Innovation |
| 2) Communications | 5) Attitude |
| 3) Creative ability | 6) Interaction with others |

Community involvement will be considered, either church or civic.

A nominee could be considered for the committees he or she may have chaired or served upon, and how these committees functioned under his or her guidance.

Nominees will be considered on a point system, giving points for their contributions in the above-noted areas.

There will be a personal interview conducted with the three finalists. To win the state award as EMS Responder of the Year, nominees do not have to be an agency officer or chief.

All nominations for EMS Responder of the Year must be submitted to a local district association on department or agency letterhead, and signed by the department or agency chief officer or executive, assistant chief, or president.

The district offices will direct submissions of district nominations to the SFFMA office. Submissions of nominees must be on district letterhead and/or signed by the president or secretary of the district. One nomination from each district president/secretary shall be submitted to the SFFMA office via fax, email or postal mail by the fourth Monday in May.

Copies of certificates and pictures may be included (but no more than four of each).

**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MAY 22, 2017.**



PROPOSAL I

SFFMA

Red River District 10

Organized Fire Departments from the Counties of: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Knox, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise, and Young

Motto: "Together We Protect"

TO: SFFMA Constitution and By-Laws Committee

SUBJ: Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Amendment

The Executive Board of the Red River District Number 10 respectfully submits this proposed constitution and by-laws amendment for consideration of the membership at the 2017 convention. The proposed changes are listed below by Article and section after a brief problem statement addressing our rationale for submitting this change.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: The vote of officers to represent the SFFMA members is limited to those paying registration fees and attending the state convention, in addition, even those that do make that commitment to voice their vote have to wait until the last business session of the convention for the vote to be recorded. As the annual convention continues to struggle with low attendance, the voting numbers drop, meaning an officer-elect may gain that position by an extremely small percentage of the membership. Location and the size of the population represented may become more the deciding factor than what the membership as a whole desires. Is it right that members are asked to pay to play, so to speak; that being said, unless you are registered and pay the convention fees, plus whatever travel and lodging cost, you don't get

your vote counted! Most, if not all, organizations from smaller communities when deciding to fund conference attendance or keep the apparatus on the road, (decide that) the only logical answer is to fund the operation of the department. We have many great avenues in this state for funding, but it will cost individuals and/or organizations to make the effort to get delegates to a convention to vote. Many fire service associations currently conduct their elections by mail or online ballot including NFPA, IAFC and TFCA to encourage more votes cast, not just the members attending the annual conference, to participate in the organization.

The SFFMA's mission statement has been included to ensure this organization maintains these guiding principles as it drives to the future.

SFFMA Mission Statement

Promote, Unify, Represent and Educate the Fire Service of Texas

The present wording of the sections being recommended for change are in the boxed areas, and the proposed change is underlined under the box.

CONSTITUTION

Article III – Officers

Section 2. The foregoing officers and a mascot shall be elected annually by the Association at the last session of the last day of the Annual Training Conference and Convention, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be elected and qualified. Their duties shall be as are defined by the by-laws of this Association.

Section 2. The foregoing officers and a mascot shall be elected annually by the Association, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be elected and qualified. Their duties shall be as are defined by the by-laws of this Association.

Article VI – Delegates

Section 1. Each regularly organized fire department shall be entitled to five delegates at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 1. Each member organization shall be entitled to five delegates for the purpose of casting votes on behalf of the organization at any and all approved elections, provided that all sections to the by-laws have been complied with.

Section 2. All delegates must be current individual dues paying members, except Industrial members. Industrial Members must be from a participating Industrial Organization to be delegates and each participating Industrial Organization can have up to five voting delegates. No member delegate shall be allowed to be represented by proxy.

Section 2. All delegates must be current individual dues paying members, except Industrial members. Industrial members must be from a participating Industrial Organization to be delegates and each participating Industrial Organization can have up to five voting delegates.

Section 3. Lists of delegates from each member department or organization shall be furnished to the secretary upon registration at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Section 3. Delegate applications shall be submitted to the Secretary beginning at a time and date based on the election date set by the executive board and finalizing upon registration at the annual convention.

BY-LAWS

Article VIII – Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Place

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the first (1st) business session of the annual conference.

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the date and time designated by the Executive Board with ample time to facilitate an election and acquire results for disclosure at the Annual Training Conference and Convention.

Article IX – Voting and Elections

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote at the annual meeting.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS PROPOSALS

Section 1. Each properly accredited delegate shall be entitled to one vote during the election. One delegate from each member organization may cast their ballot by electronic means in the 30-day period prior to the election. The four remaining delegates from each member organization may only cast ballots as registered attendees at the annual convention.

Section 3. Ballots shall be distributed to the Delegates by the Sergeant-at-Arms at such time as their attendance cards are taken up at the last session. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall act as tellers during balloting, the president shall appoint a committee to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary.

Section 3. Ballots shall be available for distribution 30 days prior to the election to be distributed electronically to one properly certified delegate of each member organization. The Executive Director shall take receipt of these returned ballots and secure them for distribution to committee appointed by the president to tally all ballots and return a total count to the secretary. The remaining delegates will receive ballots either electronically or by paper at the annual convention.

The Executive Board of the Red River District believes that acceptance of these changes, over a three-year implementation period, will continue to support the mission of the SFFMA to Promote, Unify, Represent and Educate the Fire Service of Texas.

Respectfully Submitted this 14th day of January, 2017.

Jeff Jackson
President

James Carr
Secretary

Proposal 1 will be added to the ballot as a whole. You will only be able to vote FOR or AGAINST the entire proposal.

PROPOSAL II

Mr. Dennis M Gifford
Chairman, SFFMA
Constitution & By-Laws Committee
January 16, 2017

Dear Chairman Gifford,
Please find the attached proposed revisions to the SFFMA Constitution and By-Laws that are respectfully being submitted by the members of the Mid-West District. These proposals are being submitted in an effort of increasing the number of members who cast ballots in the Association's annual elections. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you or the committee may have.

Kindest regards,

J. Clay Deatherage
President
Mid-West Texas District

SFFMA Constitution and By-Laws
Committee;
% Chairman Dennis M. Gifford

January 14, 2017

Dear Committee Members,
The members of the Mid-West Texas District are aware of, and concerned about the low number of votes that have been cast in the Association's recent annual elections. The situation was discussed extensively at the District's semi-annual meeting held on April 9, 2016 in Merkel, Texas. The members gathered in Merkel were aware of one or more proposed amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws that were to be considered at the Annual 2016 meeting.

After a thorough and exhaustive discussion, all in attendance were in agreement regarding the following Points.

1. Changes were needed in order to increase the number of votes cast in June and provide a greater number of eligible delegates and opportunity to participate in the Association's elections.
2. Due to changes in the economy, personal and departmental budgets, employment restrictions, family

commitments and lifestyle changes, fewer Training Conference and Convention attendees have the ability to remain at the event from Friday or Saturday through the following Wednesday.

3. Delegates should attend the annual Training Conference and Convention in order to cast ballot in the Association's elections.

4. Every member that meets the requirements to be designated a voting delegate, and, commits the time and financial resources to attend the Training Conference and Convention should be afforded the opportunity to vote.

5. Attendance is significantly greater on the weekend of the trade show and Memorial Service than on the last day of the Training Conference and Convention when elections are traditionally conducted.

The voting delegates assembled unanimously approved a motion for the District to submit proposed amendments to the SFFMA's Constitution and By-Laws to address these issues for consideration in 2017, in the event the voting procedures were not amended in 2016.

Therefore, the members of the Mid-West Texas District respectfully submit these proposed amendments to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws in order to achieve the following goals:

1. Allow for increased representation in SFFMA elections.
2. Facilitate the ability for delegates who cannot remain at the annual Training Conference and Convention until Wednesday to participate in elections.
3. Revise the Association's election procedure in a manner that will minimize the Association's cost.
4. Respect the tradition of attending the Convention to vote in Association elections.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE III – Officers

Current:

Section 2. The foregoing officers and a mascot shall be elected annually by the Association at the last session of the last day of the Annual Training Conference

and Convention, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be elected and qualified. Their duties shall be as are defined by the by-laws of this Association.

Proposed Amendment MWTD:

Section 2. The foregoing officers and a mascot shall be elected annually by the Association during the hours of the trade show on the first day of the Annual Training Conference and Convention, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors shall be elected and qualified. Their duties shall be as are defined by the bylaws of this Association.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – Annual Meetings

Current:

Section 1. The Association shall meet during June of each year and shall begin with a business session on Sunday, beginning with an afternoon session and continuing for three days.

MWTD Proposal

Section 1. The Association shall meet during June of each year and shall begin with a business session on Sunday, beginning with an afternoon session and continuing for three days. Voting for all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be conducted on the Saturday of the trade show of the Annual Training Conference.

MWTD Proposal

Section 1.1 In the event a second ballot is required, the second ballot shall be cast the following day.

ARTICLE VIII - Nominations of Officers and Selection of Meeting Place

Current:

Section 1. Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the hour designated on the official Annual Training Conference and Convention program, during the first (1st) business session of the annual conference.

Proposed Amendment MWTD:

Section 1. The SFFMA President shall convene a nominating session at the Annual Training Conference and Convention Planning Conference held in January each year. The place and

hour of the nominating session shall be published in the schedule of said Annual Training Conference and Convention Planning Conference.

Proposed Amendment MWTD

Section 1.1 Nominations of all officers, mascots and meeting places shall be made at the place and hour designated at the Annual Training Conference and Convention Planning Conference held in January each year.

Proposed Amendment MWTD

Section 1.2 No other business of the Association shall presented nor be conducted in the nominating session.

ARTICLE IX - Voting and Elections

Current:

Section 3. Ballots shall be distributed to the Delegates by the Sergeant-at-Arms at such time as their attendance cards are taken up at the last session. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall act as tellers during balloting, the president shall appoint a committee to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary.

Proposed Amendment MWTD

Section 3. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain a polling location at or near the trade show held on the first Saturday of the Annual Training Conference and Convention. The polling location shall be open in order to allow delegates to cast their ballots at any time during the stated period of time the trade show is open.

Proposed Amendment MWTD

Section 3.1 The Credentials Committee shall provide a list of delegates that have been verified as eligible to cast votes in matters of the Association prior to the opening of the polling location. In the event a delegate was not registered prior to arriving at the Annual Training Conference and Convention, or, additional information is required prior to the delegate being determined to be eligible to cast ballots, the Credentials Committee shall provide the Sergeant-at-Arms an amended list verifying the delegate(s) in question are eligible to cast ballots, prior to the delegate(s) receiving a ballot.

Proposed Amendment MWTD

Section 3.2 The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain the provided list of delegates

and First Ballots at the polling location. Upon a delegate's entry of the polling location, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall verify the delegate's eligibility to cast a ballot, indicate the delegate voted on the provided list of delegates and then provide the delegate with a ballot to mark and place in a secure ballot box. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall act as tellers and maintain security of the ballot box during balloting, and at all times prior to the time the ballots are counted. The president shall appoint a committee to count all ballots and return a total count to the secretary prior to the Firefighter Memorial Service on Sunday morning.

Proposed Amendment MWTD

Section 3.3 In the event a second ballot is required, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain a polling station as specified in Section 3.2 of this article at near the location of the Sunday luncheon for a time period of time from 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Firefighter Memorial Service to 30 minutes after the conclusion of the luncheon.

Respectfully submitted at the SFFMA Annual Training Conference Planning Meeting, San Marcos, Texas on January 20, 2017

Mid-West Texas District Constitution and By-Laws Committee

J. Clay Deatherage
President, Albany

Kristopher Hester
Secretary-Treasurer, Merkel

Jason Hull
2nd Vice President, Rotan

Danny Campbell
Chaplain, Hon. Retired

Randy Teague
3rd Vice President, Lake Coleman

Edward Mike Konczak, Sr.
Parliamentarian, Baird

Alexander Smith, Jr.
4th Vice President, Baird

Steve Cochran
Past President, Merkel

FIRST RESPONDER STRESS & TRAUMA: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT



PTSD INITIATIVE®



First responders address the issues of stress and trauma in their daily routines. First responders not only assist individuals and families affected by illness, crime, and traumas, but must also cope with its effects on themselves. The PTSD Initiative Training series emphasizes health, stability, and safety for our First Responders and the community through education, prevention, and programs emphasizing coping skills.

It has been our experience that, although counseling and therapy may offer effective interventions that are deterrents, education is an integral part in the process of understanding to better cope and ultimately prevail. This is indisputable in the prevention of the development of PTSD.

There has been a dialogue on the need to address the chronic stress and traumas experienced by first responders. Firefighters and paramedics are certainly no exception. It is reported that from 22% up to 37% of firefighters experience PTSD symptoms during their career (Summers, 2017; Tull, 2017). The numbers have wide ranges because many cases of PTSD go unreported due to the stigma attached to any condition related to stress or trauma. In Texas, there is a formal recognition of the need to address injuries related to traumas for first responders. House Bill 1983 was introduced by Rep. John Wray R-Waxahachie to cover PTSD under worker's compensation for first responders.

"We must be able to empower ourselves through knowledge of the effects of stress and trauma" stated Mr. Gilbert Lopez, when asked why he founded the Nueva Luz Foundation and the PTSD Initiative®. "We are looking to reduce the stigma of PTSD, by educating the community on its effects so that all

have a better understanding of this very manageable condition".

The training for first responders was developed after several years of offering services to federal and local first responders, military veterans and their families. An evidenced-based evaluation was undertaken to identify strategies and techniques for effectiveness. This not only assisted in the development of our own proprietary protocols, but also identified the most effective strategies for use by first responders, keeping in mind their work pace and load. The training offers practical information of the effects of chronic stress and traumas on physical health, cognitive skills, as well as family and lifestyle, the risk factors each produces and practical coping skills for each area. Mr. Lopez also emphasizes the need to include spouses and families in the trainings, as well as interventions, to offer practical and effective strategies. He states, "Our approach is one of leadership and empowerment that recognizes the person as a whole. This includes the physiological changes caused by stress and traumas. We recognize chronic stress and trauma are an inherent part of the job, but PTSD can be prevented. The more knowledge and understanding, the better someone can cope and prevail."

We invite all to attend the presentation at the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas conference in San Marcos. It is a one-day training that upon completion, attendees will be able to: develop an understanding of stress, trauma at its various levels, recognize the signs associated with stress and traumas, and devise coping strategies to reduce stress and anxiety.

More information about conference training on pages 25-28.

Authors:

Gilbert B. Lopez is the founder and Executive Director of the Nueva Luz® Foundation and the PTSD Initiative®. He is also the co-author of the PTSD Initiative Training Series for first responders, businesses, attorneys, and mental health professionals. Mr. Lopez is a USAF Desert Storm veteran with over 12 years of experience in forensic interventions and strategies, is certified in Trauma Informed Focused Training (TIFT), a trained mediator, and program developer.

Norma Villanueva, PhD, LCSW is the clinical director for the Nueva Luz Foundation. Dr. Villanueva is a licensed clinician with over 20 years of experience working with Veterans, children and families affected by trauma. She holds a PhD in psychology and is the coauthor of the PTSD Initiative Training Series for first responders, businesses, attorneys, and mental health professionals.

Footnotes

Liberzon, I. & Ressler, K (2016), Neurobiology of PTSD: From brain to mind. Oxford University Press, Ny, NY.

Orr, S.P., Metzger, L. J., & Pitman, R. K. (2002). Psychophysiology of post-traumatic stress disorder. Psychiatric Clinical Norm America, 25(2). 271-93.

Texas (State). Legislature. Relating to the eligibility of a firefighter to a peace officer for worker's compensation benefits for post traumatic stress disorder, (BH 1983). 2017-2018 Regular Session (February 16, 2017). 85th Texas State Legislature.

Tull, M. PhD, (2017). Rates of PTSD in fire fighters. Very Well.com

Summers, C. (2017). What firefighters can tell you about PTSD risk. Texas A & M Today, February.



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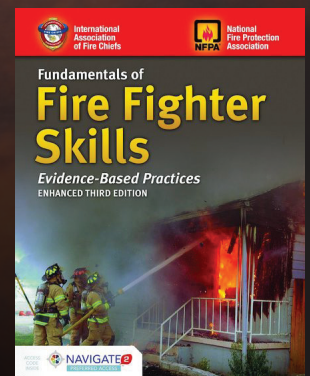
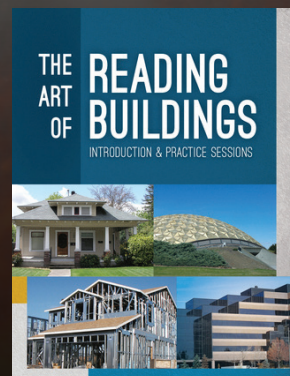
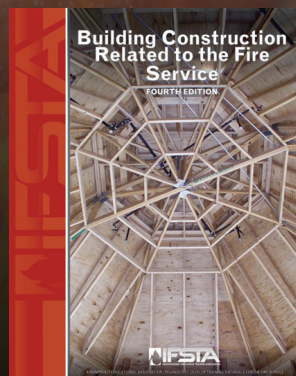
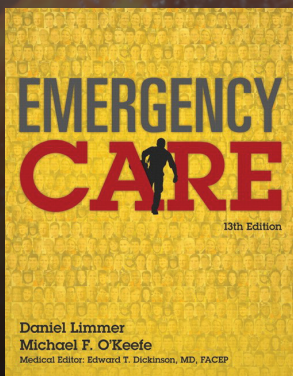
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VOTE CHUCK RICHARDSON **4th VP**

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SFFMA: EMS COMMITTEE MEMBER, CERTIFICATION BOARD MEMBER (ASSISTANT ZONE 6), ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE SPEAKER SELECTION COMMITTEE, FORMER MEMBER OF TEXAS INDUSTRIAL EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD (MEMBER FOR 9 YEARS)

PAST PRESIDENT: GULF COAST FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND BRAZORIA COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

COMMISSIONER: BRAZORIA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT #2, BRAZORIA COUNTY FIRE TRAINING CENTER

TEEX GUEST INDUSTRIAL INSTRUCTOR (18 YEARS) CONTACT: SFFMA2017@GMAIL.COM

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

June 9 - 14, 2017 - SAN MARCOS, TX

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017

6 - 7 A.M.	Stretch the Day
6:30 - 7 A.M.	Exhibits Committee Meeting
7 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Exhibitor Move-In/ Registration
8 A.M. - 11 A.M.	TIESB Board Meeting
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Executive Board Meeting
2 P.M. - 4 P.M.	TFA Board and Committee Meeting
3 P.M. - 5 P.M.	Certification Board Meeting
3 P.M. - 5 P.M.	T*Flag Meeting
3 P.M. - 5 P.M.	Fire Marshals Committee Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 9 A.M.	Constitution & By-Laws Committee
8 - 9 A.M.	EMS Committee Meeting
8:15 - 10:15 A.M.	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Interviews
8:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Finance Committee
8:30 A.M.	Sergeant-at-Arms Meeting
9:15 A.M.	Ribbon Cutting
9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	Registration outside Exhibit Hall
9:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.	Golf/Driving/Poster Registration/ Pumper Races/ TFA (9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.)
10 A.M.	Pumper Race Committee Meeting
10 - 11 A.M.	Poster Committee Meeting
12 P.M.	Past Presidents' Luncheon (by invitation only)
1 - 3 P.M.	TFA Workshops
3 P.M.	SFFMA Recognition of Exhibitors
4 P.M.	Pumper Race Captains Meeting
4:30 - 10 P.M.	Exhibit Hall Move-Out
5:30 - 8 P.M.	Pumper Races/Kids Activities

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Driving Contest
8:00 A.M.	Firefighter/EMS Responder of the Year Breakfast - Sponsored by VFIS (by invitation only)
9 A.M.	Memorial Service Rehearsal
10 A.M.	Memorial Service Lineup
10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Memorial Service
12 - 1 P.M.	Memorial Service Luncheon Sponsored by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
1 - 4 P.M.	Opening Business Session
1:30 P.M.	Poster Contest Judging
6 - 9 P.M.	Presidents' Reception

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 8:30 A.M.	TFA Business Meeting Registration
7:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Registration
8 A.M. - 6 P.M.	Training Workshops
8:30 A.M.	TFA Business Meeting
10 A.M.	Vernon "Blondy" Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament
6 - 9 P.M.	Hospitality Night Events

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017

6 A.M.	Stretch the Day
7:30 - 11 A.M.	Registration
8 A.M.	Credentials Committee
8 A.M. - 6 P.M.	Training Workshops
11 A.M.	TFA Luncheon
7 - 10 P.M.	Dinner & Dance

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

8 - 10:30 A.M.	Closing Business Session
8:30 A.M.	TFA Board Meeting
1 - 3 P.M.	SFFMA Executive Board Meeting

REGISTRATION NOTES

WEEKEND REGISTRATION: Anyone wishing to attend just the weekend portion of the SFFMA conference is required to sign up for the weekend registration and pay a registration fee. Your fee will include access to exhibits, pumper races, memorial service, memorial service luncheon, and the Presidents' Reception. If you are only interested in attending the exhibits, you don't have to register.

JUNIOR EXPLORER ATTENDEES: We welcome ALL Junior Explorer program attendees and encourage them to participate in training (to count toward their future certifications). However, they will have to pay full conference registration in order to do so.

NEW THIS YEAR

INTERNET CAFE - We will set up an internet cafe for the duration of main conference. Anyone will be able to come in and see SFFMA website navigation, Online 3.1, and representatives can answer social media related questions, etc. Check the conference program for location and times.

MAIN EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Saturday, June 10, 9:15 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Embassy Suites - San Marcos - Ballroom. Come see the latest technology, service and products our sustaining members have to offer. Admission is free.

PUMPER RACES

Saturday, June 10, 5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

Pumper races for 3-and 6-men/ ladies teams. Team members don't have to be from the same fire department. Each 3-member team has to run 50 feet before performing the following: first member connects a hose to the truck, second member connects hoses together, and third connects nozzle to allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. Six-member team members have to connect hard suction hose to hydrant, pull hose from the hose bed, and, in an approximate straight line, connect to pumper on one side and to a nozzle on the other side, open valve on hydrant and allow water to flow until a stream emerges from the nozzle. *Registration will be available in the Exhibit Hall until 3 p.m.*

DRIVING CONTEST

Sunday, June 11, 7:30 - 9:30 A.M. San Marcos High School Parking Lot
Sign up to test your ability at a timed obstacle course or come cheer for a friend.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, June 11, 10:30 A.M. - Noon Embassy Suites Hotel - Ballroom
To honor those who passed away in a line-of-duty or non-line-of-duty death in the past 12 months. Names to be submitted by **May 12, 2017**.

BUSINESS SESSIONS

Sunday, June 11, 1 - 4 P.M./Wednesday, June 14, 8 - 10:30 A.M.

Business sessions include fire service agency reports, executive director's report, committee updates, and delegate voting (Wednesday).

PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION

Sunday, June 11, 6 - 9 P.M. Old Fish Hatchery, San Marcos
SFFMA, TFA presidents and the Guadalupe District invite you to enjoy an evening of great food and entertainment.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 12, 10 A.M. Quail Creek Golf Course, 2701 Airport Highway 21, San Marcos, TX 78666 - Golf tournament has, on average, 60 players. Registration fee is \$75 per player.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Monday, June 12, 6 - 9 P.M. at the Host Hotel
Various candidates for office and other entities will be hosting hospitality suites at the Host Hotel. Food and drinks will be provided. Open to all conference attendees.

DINNER & DANCE

Tuesday, June 27, 7 - 10 P.M. Embassy Suites

Dinner and dance. Dress code: no shorts or flip-flops, please. Each conference attendee will receive one dinner & dance ticket with their registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$35 each.



141ST ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION

JUNE 9 - 14, 2017

SAN MARCOS, TX

OFFICE USE ONLY

REGISTRATION FORM

AVOID FILLING OUT REGISTRATION FORM BY REGISTERING ONLINE AT www.sffma.org.

Member ID#: **Rank*:** *This information will be included on your name badge.

Member Type: ☐ **Member (Non-voting)** ☐ **Non-Member** ☐ **Presenter** ☐ **SFFMA Board/Past President** ☐ **Delegate**

Name: (as to appear on badge)

Mobile #:

Email:

Fire Department/Organization:

☐ **First-Time Attendee** ☐ **Junior Explorer****

** Junior Explorers (15-18) must pay full conference registration in order to participate in training and CANNOT be voting delegates.

For Delegates Only: Each member department is authorized to send up to five delegates. Registration must have an approved signature from the fire chief on file to be processed.

☐ I authorize the above-named individual to represent our member department as a delegate at this year's annual conference. I understand there can only be five delegates per department participating in the voting process.

Delegate #: 1 2 3 4 5

Fire Chief Signature:

FEES & DEADLINES

Full Registration Fee includes:

- Access to exhibits, all functions
- Training workshops (including certificates)
- ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant

Members
BEFORE MAY 17, \$250
AFTER MAY 17, \$325

Non-Members
BEFORE MAY 17, \$300
AFTER MAY 17, \$375

Members

☐ \$35 each

Non-Members

☐ \$45 each

Weekend Registration*:

One-Day Training Registration:

- Training workshops and evening event of the day

☐ Monday

BEFORE MAY 17, \$115

BEFORE MAY 17, \$145

☐ Tuesday

AFTER MAY 17, \$145

AFTER MAY 17, \$175

NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 17.

PLEASE INDICATE ACTIVITIES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

☐ **PUMPER RACES (SAT)**

☐ **HOSPITALITY NIGHT (MON)**

☐ **PRESIDENTS RECEPTION (SUN)**

☐ **DINNER & DANCE (TUE)**

(A) Subtotal:

TFA AND ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION—Allowed only with the purchase of the FULL conference registration above.

This registration includes access to main conference, exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant.

NOTE: TFA and additional registrants will NOT be eligible to receive continuing education credits.

BEFORE MAY 17, \$80 + AFTER MAY 17, \$100

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION TYPES: ☐ TFA ☐ SPOUSE OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER ☐ GUEST OF SFFMA/TFA MEMBER ☐ OTHER

(1) NAME:

(2) NAME:

YOUTH REGISTRATION—Allowed only with the FULL conference registration above: includes access to exhibits, activities, and ONE dinner & dance ticket per registrant. Price of \$40 for ages 7-17; children 6 and under are FREE!

(1) NAME: AGE: (3) NAME: AGE:

(2) NAME: AGE: (4) NAME: AGE:

ADDITIONAL DINNER & DANCE TICKETS—Available for those who will be attending the SFFMA Dinner & Dance ONLY.

X \$35 Each =

(B) Subtotal:

THIS TRAINING CONFERENCE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE FOR ELIGIBLE HB2604 GRANT FUNDING.



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Subtotals (A)

(B)

GRAND TOTAL:

COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE MAILED TO:

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EMAILED TO: GGLASS@SFFMA.ORG

SFFMA CONFERENCE 2017

PO BOX 1709

MANCHACA, TX 78652-1709

PLEASE SELECT YOUR TRAINING WORKSHOPS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

PLEASE ANSWER QUESTIONS BELOW

1. Do you require special assistance during conference? Please specify. _____
2. Do you have any severe food allergies or dietary restrictions (Sunday luncheon & Tuesday dinner)? _____
☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other _____

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

AM	8:00 A.M.		10:15 A.M.		PM	1:30 P.M.		3:45 P.M.	
MONDAY	FIREFIGHTER I	<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>	
	FIREFIGHTER I	<input type="checkbox"/> USING ENCAPSULATING AGENTS TO FIGHT MODERN CAR FIRES Jeff Bonkoski	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE DEPARTMENT & FIRE SERVICE HISTORY RJ Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE CONTROL I Nate Mara	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE CONTROL I Nate Mara	
	CERTIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.1 ONLINE Kevin Creamer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT TRAINING DOCUMENTATION PRACTICES Andy Dexter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TEXFIRS UPDATE AND CODING REVIEW Virginia Garza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP Kevin Creamer	
	INDUSTRIAL/HAZMAT	<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> PIPELINE RESPONSE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS Scott Matthews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	
	WILDLAND	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM Ron Roy		<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND FIRE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM Ron Roy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND SAFETY REFRESHER Dan Williams		<input type="checkbox"/> WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE TACTICS Dan Williams	
	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> THOSE WHITE-SHIRTED, BADGE-ON-BELT, DAY GLOW-VEST-WEARING CHIEFS Ricky Snell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVERING YOUR POTENTIAL AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER Mick Moffitt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST RESPONDERS: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT (PTSD INITIATIVE) Dr. Norma Villanueva & team		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST RESPONDERS: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT (PTSD INITIATIVE) Dr. Norma Villanueva & team	
TUESDAY		8:00 A.M.		10:15 A.M.		1:30 P.M.		3:45 P.M.	
	FIREFIGHTER II	<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> HANDS-ON FIREFIGHTER SKILLS (16 HRS) Greg Cross * <i>pre-registration is required</i>	
	FIREFIGHTER II	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS Andy Dexter		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS Andy Dexter		<input type="checkbox"/> AUTO EXTRICATION WITH NEW CAR TECHNOLOGY		<input type="checkbox"/> AUTO EXTRICATION WITH NEW CAR TECHNOLOGY	
	CERTIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.1 ONLINE Kevin Creamer		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP Kevin Creamer		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION TESTING TEEX * <i>pre-registration is required</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFICATION TESTING TEEX * <i>pre-registration is required</i>	
	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> ABUSE THEM AND LOOSE THEM Ricky Snell		<input type="checkbox"/> WHAT IS TIFMAS?		<input type="checkbox"/> SOURCE AND METHODS OF HELP FOR SMALL DEPARTMENTS Bruce Woods		<input type="checkbox"/> TBA	
	SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST RESPONDERS: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT (PTSD INITIATIVE) Dr. Norma Villanueva & team		<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST RESPONDERS: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT (PTSD INITIATIVE) Dr. Norma Villanueva & team		<input type="checkbox"/> DRIVING FROM THE RIGHT FRONT SEAT Justin Eberly		<input type="checkbox"/> CANCER RISKS & YOUR DOCTOR Phil Vasile	
	SAFETY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT BASICS Justin Eberly		<input type="checkbox"/> A HEALTHY DAY IN A HEALTHY WAY Roy Mercer		<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE Danny Hurt, Rayford Gibson		<input type="checkbox"/> COURAGE TO BE SAFE Danny Hurt, Rayford Gibson	
	LODD PREVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> TBA		<input type="checkbox"/> LEVELS OF HONOR/ CARING FOR FAMILIES Texas LODD Task Force		<input type="checkbox"/> THE FIRST 6 HOURS AFTER AN LODD Billy Wusterhausen		<input type="checkbox"/> MAYDAY - ARE YOU READY AS THE INCIDENT COMMANDER Joe Ondrasek	

FUTURE PLANNING

Please list a few topics or workshops you would like to see at the 2018 SFFMA Conference in Arlington:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SAN MARCOS!

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*FIRST TIME EXHIBITORS

2017 TEXAS FIREFIGHTER PHOTO CONTEST

Anyone can enter the contest
with the **EXCEPTION** of
professional photographers;
no minimum age requirement.

CATEGORIES:

- FIRE-RELATED ACTS
- LIFESAVING ACTS
- EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY



DEADLINE TO ENTER - MAY 17
more information at www.sffma.org

CAPITOL MONUMENT EXPANSION PROJECT

Thanks to the generous donation of the below listed companies and individuals, SFFMA was able to complete the Capitol Monument Expansion Project in March 2015.

DONATIONS OVER \$5,000



WEST VFD

DONATIONS OVER \$1,000

Abernathy FD; Alvin VFD; Ann Stulce - In Memory of Bob Stulce; Bacliff FD; Baird VFD; Bastrop County Firefighters Association; Brazoria County FF Association; Brazos County Pct# 4 VFD; Brenham FD; Caldwell County Fire Chiefs Association; Chris Barron; Christine Rogalski; David Wade; Decatur FD; Edwin "Rusty" Kattner & Nita Kattner; Emily Barron; Ernest O. Reesing; Fort Stockton VFD; Galveston County Fire Fighters Association; Gilmer VFD; Henderson County Fire Chief's Association; IIAT/Trusted Choice Foundation; Jeannie Green; Kyle & Debbie Stephens; Ladies Auxiliary-Brenham FD; Leander FD; Liz Cargile - SAFE-D; Love Consulting Engineers; Manchaca VFD; Michael T. Ridgway, Mike & Debbie Richardson - In Memory of Chief Ted Richardson; Mike Rogers; Northeast Texas Firemen's Association; Pasadena FD; Red River District - 10; Rio Grande Valley Firefighter's and Fire Marshals' Association; Santa Fe Fire/Rescue; Sinton VFD; Stephen Donnelly; Tatum VFD; Texas A&M Forest Service; Texas Firemen's Auxiliary; The Foundation for Dreamers; Thorndale VFD, Inc.; VFIS of Texas- Regnier & Associates; West Carlisle VFD; West I-10 VFD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

If we've accidentally forgot to include your name and you contributed to the monument expansion, please email events@sffma.org.

ALL 2013 AND 2014 DONORS

Aaron Lopez; Alex Coyne; Allen Blakemore; Allen Russell; Alvin VFD Ladies Auxiliary; Alvin VFD Ladies Pumper Team; Anderson/Cargile Families; Angela Johnson; Anonymous Donors; April Hudson; Becky Willard; Beeville Knights of Columbus Council 9268; Bellville VFD; Ben Kennedy; Bethel Cayuga VFD; Bill B. Zilar; Billy Joe & Christi Marie Williams; Billy Powers; Bluff Dale VFD; Bob & Marcie Doolittle; Boling FD; Bonham VFD; Bootleg VFD; Brent Allen; Brian Beck; Caddo Mills FD; Candace Busch; Canyon FD; Carlton & Diane Clark; Carol Wagner; Chad Cryer; Charles Gee; Chase Westerman; Chelsea Perry, Bastrop FD; Chris Bruce; Chuck & Lucia Garriss; City of Plains VFD; Clay & Mel Deatherage; Clemente & Elena Sanchez; Comanche VFD; Cory Bradley; Curtis Powell; Dallas Wiard; Danna M. Markides; Darren Smith; David Rosier; David Varner; David W. Maltzan; Dawson FD; Deborah Hinckley; Decatur FD; Deloss Edwards - Landon & Luke Ammons; Dennis Wright; Derrick Curtis; Diana Cardona; Diana Howse; Dixie & Earl Whitmore; Donald J. Smith; Dorothy L. Ryden; Dublin FD; Eastside VFD; Eddy Harris; Edna & Shawn Snider; Edward & Mary Armstrong; El Campo VFD Ladies Auxiliary; Emily Gardner; Emmett Tullia; Enrico Barone; F. Jim White; Fire Inc; Fire Rescue; Flatonina Fire and Rescue; Frankie Joe Salinas; Frankie Marcinkiewicz; Gabi & Michael Glass; Gary Williams; GBW Associates LLC in collaboration with Bastrop County FFA; Genevieve Do; Gerald Roberson; Golf Committee; Gulf Coast Ladies Auxiliary; H. Don McFarland; Hal & Donna Chudalla Family; Hill Country FF Association; Honri Dicks, Leander FD; Hood Co. Sta. 70 VFD; J.A. Barron; Jaden Roy; James Carr and Decatur FD; James Hudson; James Lee Terry; James Longmier; James Terry; James Wistinghausen - Bacliff VFD; Jason & Clayton Scheel; Jason Johnson; Jeffrey & Darlene Towers - Whitney FD; Jennifer Bradley; Jennifer Selby Doyle; Jerry & Jolynda Loeb; Jerry & Pat Rust; Jerry Williams; Jesse & Betty Creamer; Jessica Hafner; Joel Sumrall - Santa Fe Fire/Rescue; John & Nancy Burgoyne; John Donaho; John W. Bales; Joseph A. Aaron; Joshua Sisk; Judy Seymore; Julia D. Beauchamp; Karen Bettis; Kevin Creamer; Kevin Farrell; Kim Tanner; Kurt Ecker; Lauren Hamilton; Leander FD; Les Bunte; Lillian FD; Louise & Kent

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2017 FIRE CHIEF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Thanks to the sponsorship of Texas Mutual Insurance Company, VFIS of Texas and funding from Texas A&M Forest Service grant (HB2604), we are able to extend the Fire Chief Development Program to 30 new chief officers. In four weekends, we will cover the following topics:

Personnel Management - recruitment and retention, developing policies, disciplinary procedures, change management, FLSA, volunteer compensation issues, etc.

Administration Management - budgets, grant programs, government/elected official relationships, government regulations/rules, corporate foundation principles, ISO/PPC, etc.

Operations Management - equipment/fleet standards and requirements, cooperative purchasing programs, fireground safety programs, SOGs, changing fireground tactics, etc.

Succession Planning - long-term strategic planning, record management systems, performance measures, FD transitions, etc.

Below are some testimonials from the inaugural class graduates.

This program gave me the knowledge to become a better chief, and the confidence to lead my department into the future. The experience level of the instructors was invaluable. The program also served as an avenue to develop contacts with other chiefs across the state. I strongly encourage every chief to get into this program.

Chief Patrick J. Thomas- Ben Bolt FD

By taking part of this program, I learned how to better plan for the future of fire service, make my department, firefighters and myself better! The networking you get from this program is like no other, being able to talk with chiefs from very small departments to huge departments. We all choose to be part of this program and by choosing to be a part of it we choose to help out our fellow chiefs and get help from them!

Chief Derrick Curtis - Cassie VFD

RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS TO YOUR DEPARTMENT WITH HELP FROM 'MAKE ME A FIREFIGHTER' CAMPAIGN

*By Chief Kevin D. Quinn
Chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council*

If your department is like most volunteer or combination departments in the U.S., you struggle to maintain the staffing needed to provide the adequate level of service to your community. The numbers are clear. The National Fire Protection Association reports that in 1984, there were 897,750 volunteer firefighters, and that in 2013 there were 786,150. This is a 12 percent decrease. In that same time period, call volume has tripled, largely due to increased medical emergency calls.

Why are we having problems recruiting new members? There are a lot of factors, including increased demands on people's time, increased training requirements, and geographical shifts as people move away from smaller communities for job opportunities. But there is another challenge as well-lack of awareness among the public about the need for volunteer firefighters and EMTs. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) conducted a national survey last year that found that 41% of respondents didn't know if their local department utilized volunteers. Perhaps even more telling was that 79% of respondents did not know their department was seeking volunteers. It is hard to expect people to step up and serve if they don't even know the opportunity is available.

The survey did uncover some promising news. It found that 29% of the U.S. population is either “definitely interested” or “might be interested” in volunteering as a responder in the fire and emergency service. Among under-represented audiences, the numbers were even higher. 44 percent of Millennials (those aged 18-35) expressed at least some interest in volunteering, which is encouraging for an industry whose population is aging and needs new blood to secure its future. In addition, 36 percent of minorities expressed interest in volunteering, shedding light on what has to date been a largely untapped recruiting market.

What do we do to bridge this gap in awareness to get new members in the door, diversity in our ranks, and attract the next generation of responders? It is a challenge for many departments to focus on recruitment when they are already short-staffed and under-funded. That is why the NVFC has launched a new volunteer recruitment campaign to help. Funded by a federal SAFER grant, the Make Me A Firefighter campaign aims to connect departments with potential volunteers and provide personnel with the resources and training to successfully recruit new members. This is the first national campaign of its kind and features messaging and materials that have been tested to resonate with target audiences. And best of all, it is completely free.

Here are the steps you can follow in order to take full advantage of this new recruitment campaign.

POST YOUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT [HTTP://PORTAL.NVFC.ORG](http://portal.nvfc.org)

The campaign features a searchable database of volunteer opportunities at local departments so potential recruits can connect. But they can't find your department if you aren't listed. Register at <http://portal.nvfc.org> and post your volunteer opportunities today. This enables

interested members of the public to find you from a variety of volunteer opportunity search databases, including www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org and www.AllForGood.org. In addition, you can track the progress of potential recruits who connect with your department through the database.

MAKE SURE YOUR DEPARTMENT IS READY FOR NEW RECRUITS.

As you bring potential members to your department, make sure your current members are ready to welcome them. No one wants to join an organization where they feel like an outsider or are disrespected or ignored. Current members need to remember that they were all new to the department at one time as well, and should be there to provide information, assistance, and support to potential volunteers and new recruits. Train your members in diversity and inclusion, and when younger members have ideas or input, let their voices be heard. The NVFC will be releasing a series of online courses to help departments reach new audiences, embrace new members, and retain those who join. These will be available soon at <http://portal.nvfc.org>.

LET YOUR COMMUNITY KNOW YOU NEED VOLUNTEERS.

While the NVFC is doing national outreach to let the public know about the need for volunteer firefighters and EMTs, the best way to inform your specific community that you need volunteers is if you tell them. The NVFC has developed a series of ready-to-use materials you can customize for your local audience. These include ads, emails, flyers, social media messaging, tools for working with the media, and more. Access these resources at <http://portal.nvfc.org>.

UTILIZE PERSONAL INVITATIONS AND HOLD SAMPLING EVENTS.

NVFC research has shown that personal invitations and sampling events are key draws for people

when making the decision to join their local fire department. Personal invitations mean that someone has specifically invited them to join, and sampling events are activities that allow the potential recruit to get a glimpse of what a volunteer firefighter or EMT does. A sampling event may be a ride along, open house, booth or recruitment station at a local community fair. The NVFC has a list of ideas and tips for holding a sampling event, as well as template invitations to help you invite community members to join your department. Find these at <http://portal.nvfc.org>.

PROMOTE THE CAMPAIGN.

The public web site at www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org contains information to help potential volunteers learn what it means and what it takes to be a volunteer in the fire and emergency services. It also contains a search engine to help these individuals connect with your department. Let your community know about this web site. If you have contacts in other departments, you can also share the campaign with them and let them know the resources that are available to help them recruit new members. Find tools to promote the campaign at <http://portal.nvfc.org>.

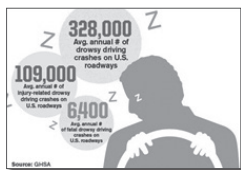
Recruiting takes effort, but the resources available through the Make Me A Firefighter campaign help reduce the burden and simplify the process. The bottom line is that we need more boots-on-the-ground firefighters and EMTs, and the only way to get them in is to reach interested individuals. Use the Make Me A Firefighter campaign to reinvigorate your recruitment efforts, expand your target audiences, and access materials and resources to make your local campaign a success.

Get started today at <http://portal.nvfc.org>.



DROWSY DRIVING – AS DANGEROUS AS DRUNK DRIVING – EVEN FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Most of us would never drive after drinking, but if you've ever been jolted awake as your car hit the rumble strip on the side of the road or you fell asleep at a stoplight, new research shows you were engaged in as dangerous a situation as driving while impaired. Keep in mind that the switch from Standard Time to Daylight Saving Time, and the resulting loss of an hour of sleep, can put an additional burden on an over-tired Firefighter. It's important that all of us understand the implications of drowsy driving as we observe Sleep Awareness Week, **April 23-29**.

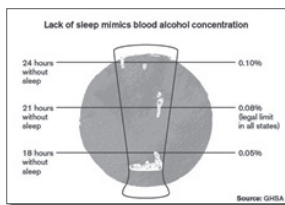


Drowsy driving is now listed as one of the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration's top public safety dangers behind the wheel along with drugged, drunken and distracted driving. The National Sleep Foundation has concluded that anyone who has slept less than two hours in a 24 hour period is too sleep deprived to operate a vehicle.

Here's why; drowsy driving is estimated to be the cause each year of:

- 328,000 crashes in the U.S.
- 6,400 highway deaths
- \$109 billion in costs, not counting property damage



Here are some other startling statistics:

- More than half of drowsy driving crashes involve drivers age 25 and younger
- Driving 18 hours without sleep is equal to .05 blood alcohol impairment and 24 hours without sleep equates to .10
- As many as one-third of drivers admitted that they have fallen asleep while driving

If you've battled to keep awake on a long drive or on the way home after a long shift, you know how dangerous it can be; much like drunk drivers, overtired drivers have proven to have:

- Slower reaction times
- Impaired judgement

- Increased risk of risk taking
- More frequent blinking/eye closure
- Deficits in cognitive performance
- Memory impairment
- Attention failure

The National Sleep Foundation warns that over-tired shift workers like first responders are more prone to the problem, as are people who work more than 60 hours a week. These risk factors include:

- Being sleep deprived or fatigued (6 hours or less of sleep)
- You suffer from insomnia
- You drive long distances without breaks
- You drive when you would normally be sleeping
- You take sedating medications such as anti-depressants, allergy pills or cold tablets
- You drive alone on a long, rural, dark road

Keep in mind that most drowsy driving crashes occur during late night or early morning hours, with a slight spike in the mid-afternoon.

Safety groups and the National Sleep Foundation urge you to pull over, stop and rest if you notice any of these warning signs:

- Difficulty focusing
- Frequent eye blinking
- Daydreaming
- Trouble recalling the last few miles or moments
- Repeated yawning or rubbing your eyes
- Trouble keeping your head up
- Driving across lanes or hitting a shoulder rumble strip

And, if you are a firefighter or and EMT, you are not immune. A study by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) warned that sleep deprivation among firefighters may be responsible for the disproportionately higher fireground injury rates observed in the early morning hours. It also found that fatigue when driving may increase the risk of crashes following work hours.

Recent research from Brigham and Women's Hospital warns that sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, insomnia, shift work disorder and restless leg syndrome are common among firefighters. The study concluded that these conditions are linked to a higher risk of car crashes. Almost 40 percent were diagnosed with a sleep disorder and those firefighters were more likely to have been involved in a crash and also more likely to report having fallen asleep behind the wheel. Auto wrecks and heart disease are the two leading causes of death for firefighters.

Lack of sleep can lead to serious health

issues. A review of sleep studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that inadequate sleep is a public health epidemic and those who get only six hours or less per night were more likely to have a depletion of performance with an increased risk of heart attack, stroke, diabetes, depression and obesity. So what can you do to get more sleep? Experts say good sleep hygiene is essential:

- Try to get eight hours of sleep each night
 - Avoid napping during the day (unless you are on an extended shift)
 - Stop using stimulants such as caffeine, nicotine and alcohol close to bedtime
 - Stay away from heavy meals close to bedtime
 - Get vigorous exercise during the day and try relaxing rituals such as yoga before bedtime
 - Keep the bedroom for sleep; remove the TV
 - Create a good sleep environment: eliminate excess noise and light and the temperature neither too hot or cold
- Remember, getting a good night's sleep and finding more time to relax can make you a better firefighter and a better person to the ones you love. You shouldn't lose sleep worrying about auto and home insurance.

California Casualty realizes accidents do happen; that's why you need to make sure you and your family have adequate protection. Give an advisor a call today for a policy review at 1.800.800.9410 or visit www.calcas.com/SFFMA.

Sources for this article:

<http://www.ghsa.org/html/publications/sfdrowsy.html>
<http://drowsydriving.org/>
<https://sleepfoundation.org/sleep-news/expert-consensus-panel-concludes-missing-night-sleep-renders-drivers-unfit>
http://www.cdc.gov/sleep/about_sleep/drowsy_driving.html
<http://www.iafc.org/sleep>
http://www.brighamandwomens.org/about_bwh/publicaffairs/news/pressreleases/PressRelease.aspx?sub=0&PageID=1921

This article is furnished by California Casualty, providing auto and home insurance to SFFMA members since 2010. Get a quote at 1.800.800.9410 or www.calcas.com/SFFMA.



MONDAY, June 12

FIREFIGHTER I

8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Hands-On Firefighter Skills Training

*Greg Cross, Assistant Chief
Administration & Training*

16 hours of firefighter hands-on skills training in the following subjects: Ladders, Hose, Ropes & Rescue, PPE & SCBA.

FIREFIGHTER I

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Using Encapsulating Agents to Fight Modern Car Fires

Jeff Bonkoski, Assistant Chief / Hazmat Instructor

According to NFPA, 15% of firefighter calls are for vehicle fires. As the technologies of cars have changed, the fires have gotten more complex and dangerous. Encapsulator agents are the proven solution for quickly fighting hybrid and electric car fires with lithium-ion batteries, safely extinguishing explosive magnesium Class D components, and polar and nonpolar Class B fuels. Now recognized by NFPA as a new category of agents, Encapsulator agents are explained. Attendees will understand this new category of agents and how they can be used to increase firefighting speed and safety.

FIREFIGHTER I

10:15 a.m. - Noon

Fire Department & Fire Service History

RJ Thomas, Ingleside Fire Department

Course will cover how the history and culture of the fire service influence its basic mission, the roles within it, and the skills needed to operate as a part of the fire service.

FIREFIGHTER I

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Fire Control I

Nate Mara, Decatur Fire Department

This lesson describes fire control in structures, stored Class A materials, ground cover, vehicles, Class C materials, and Class D materials. This lesson will not include skill evaluations that assess student ability to attack fires in structures, stored Class A materials, ground cover, vehicles, and Class C and Class D materials.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

8: 00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

SFFMA Online 3.1

Kevin Creamer

Certification staff will provide demonstrations of how to enroll students in certifications, add training through the new class entry page, review training status, review application process status, and submit year-end training summaries. Limited Wi-Fi may be available.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

10:15 a.m. - Noon

Department Training

Documentation Practices

Robert A. Dexter LP, Klein Volunteer Fire Department

The course will discuss five separate areas: training records and organizational liabilities, NFPA 1401, record retention requirements, SFFMA requirements for participation in the certification program, and ISO training requirements.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

TEXFIRS Update and Coding Review

Virginia Garza, TEXFIRS Program Manager, TX. Dept of Insurance/ State Fire Marshal's Office

TEXFIRS presentation on program updates, coding review and using your date.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Certification Workshop

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA

The course is intended to further an understanding of the SFFMA Certification Program, including program practices and procedures. Subjects include: coordinator requirements and duties, use of personal information, application completion and submission procedures, examinations, transition of firefighter program from 2011 to present.

INDUSTRIAL/ HAZMAT

8:00 a.m. - Noon

TBA

INDUSTRIAL/HAZMAT

1: 30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Pipeline Response for Emergency Responders

Scott Matthews, Project Manager, TEEX/ESTI/ Extension Program

A collaboration between Texas811 and Enertech to create a better process for reaching emergency responders with proper messaging and pre-planning. This will help to open the communication lines between the emergency responders and the pipeline industry. The session will include content required annually by the Railroad Commission of Texas.

INDUSTRIAL/ HAZMAT

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

TBA

WILDLAND

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Wildland Fire Assessment Program

Ron Roy, Division Chief,

NVFC Wildland Committee Chair

The Wildland Fire Assessment Program (WFAP) will teach you how to work side-by-side with homeowners to identify threats around their property that may be susceptible to wildfires. WFAP is a joint effort between the National Volunteer Fire Council and the U.S. Forest Service to prepare fire departments or other interested personnel with the necessary information, skills, and resources to conduct home safety assessments and provide residents with recommendations as to how to make their homes more fire adapted.

The program offers training and resources in a train-the-trainer format so you can teach department personnel about how to perform a home assessment. A checklist and supplemental resources are provided along with marketing tools to help promote this service to the public.

TRAINING WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS - MONDAY, June 12, 2017/TUESDAY, June 13, 2017

WILDLAND

1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Wildland Refresher

Dan Williams,

PPT / Lecture of Wildland FF Safety, Urban Interface tactics, Brush Truck Ops, and hands-on practice of fire shelter deployments.

WILDLAND

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wildland Urban Interface Tactics

Dan Williams,

PPT / Lecture of Wildland FF Safety, Urban Interface tactics, Brush Truck Ops, and hands-on practice of fire shelter deployments.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Those White-Shirted, Badge-on-Belts, Dayglow-Vest-Wearin' Chiefs

Ricky B. Snell, Bastrop First Responders Training Academy

Command and line officers rolls and responsibilities in paid, volunteer, and combination departments.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

10:15 a.m. - Noon

Discovering Your Potential as an Industry Leader

Mick Moffitt, Chief Executive Officer, Trainingdivision.com

Fire service leadership today is filled with men and women prematurely promoting through the ranks with minimal life experience and time mentoring others. This is not always perceived as negative to their peers, unless that individual is unable to identify with their management uniqueness, embracing the strengths and willing to accept the weaknesses. In most cases, the organization may have a void needing filled or simply a scarce pool of candidates. The real challenge begins not necessarily in our performance, but in our new identity and expectations. Many resources today are provided to strictly deal with strategies, tactics and even sharpening our overall interpersonal dynamics. However, how many industry leaders or officers today can honestly identify with their very own style of leadership and possess the ability to build a complimenting growth tract?

Without the crucial element of discovering one's identity, we often find it nearly impossible to take on the role of an effective mentor, leaving the legacy for future generations. Through facilitated discussion, one can leave this session with a better understanding of his/her leadership style, identify a vision for growth and in return, mold a solid generation for future firefighters while preserving a never-ending evolving culture.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

First Responders: Understanding the Impact (PTSD Initiative)

Dr. Norma Villanueva, LCSW

First responders address the issues of stress and trauma in their daily routines. First responders not only assist individuals and families affected by illness, crime, and traumas, but must also cope with its effect on themselves. The PTSD Initiative emphasizes health, stability, and safety for our first responders and the community through education, prevention and programs emphasizing coping skills.

TUESDAY, June 13

FIREFIGHTER II

8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Hands-On Firefighter Skills Training

Greg Cross, Assistant Chief Administration & Training

16 hours of firefighter hands-on skills training in the following subjects: Ladders, Hose, Ropes & Rescue, PPE & SCBA

FIREFIGHTER II

8 a.m. - Noon

Fire Protection Systems

Robert A. Dexter LP, Klein Volunteer Fire Department

This course will describe fixed fire protection and alerting systems commonly found in commercial, industrial, and multi-family occupancies.

FIREFIGHTER II

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Auto Extrication with New Car Technology

San Marcos Fire Department -TBA

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

SFFMA Online 3.1

Kevin Creamer

Certification staff will provide demonstrations of how to enroll students in certifications, add training through the new class entry page, review training status, review application process status, and submit year-end training summaries. Limited Wi-Fi may be available.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

10:15 a.m. - Noon

Certification Workshop

Kevin Creamer, SFFMA

The course is intended to further an understanding of the SFFMA Certification Program, including program practices and procedures. Subjects include: coordinator requirements and duties, use of personal information, application completion and submission procedures, examinations, transition of firefighter program from 2011 to present.

CERTIFICATION/ CERTIFICATION COORDINATOR

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Certification Testing

TEEX

SFFMA has partnered with TEEX-ESTI to provide written examinations for the SFFMA Certification Program at the annual conference toward full Firefighter I & II certification.

Individuals interested in enrolling in the testing session must contact the Austin office no later than Friday, May 26, 2017. There will be no exceptions to this date and walk-ins will not be allowed. Any requests based on special needs must be stated at the time of registration to allow time for arrangements to be made.

On the day of the exam, be sure to bring a valid photo ID to the testing session.

Those taking the Firefighter I Exam will also need to bring a copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) to cover the HazMat portion of the exam. Concerns about specific questions must be addressed to the exam proctor prior to leaving the testing session.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Abuse Them & Lose Them

Ricky B. Snell, Bastrop First Responders Training Academy

A comprehensive look at recruitment and retention of personnel in a volunteer department.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

10:15 a.m. - Noon

What is TIFMAS?

Dan Williams

1. Increased participation in the TIFMAS program with more certified volunteers and more departments willing to engage.
2. Increased understanding of what TIFMAS is, how it works and how to ask for help.
3. Reduction of the fear that the "State" is coming in to take over local control (the life blood of every VFD is the support of their local community).

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Source and Methods of Help for Small Departments

Bruce Woods, Chief/ Department Head Mitigation and Prevention

Grant opportunities and sources to receive help is an important issue with fire departments and it is critical to small volunteer fire departments. The session will discuss important planning steps required by any size fire department before they seek out grant opportunities, types of grants available and cost- share required by grants, also understanding the grant application requirement process and how to maximize your grant.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

How to Lower Your ISO Rating in Few Easy Steps

TBA

SAFETY I

8:00 a.m. - Noon

First Responders: Understanding the Impact (PTSD Initiative)

Dr. Norma Villanueva, LCSW

First responders address the issues of stress and trauma in their daily routines. First responders not only assist individuals and families

affected by illness, crime, and traumas, but must also cope with its effect on themselves. The PTSD Initiative emphasizes health, stability, and safety for our first responders and the community; through education, prevention and programs emphasizing coping skills.

SAFETY I

1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Driving from the Right Front Seat

Justin Eberly, VFIS

Every year we continue to see a high number of vehicle crashes involving emergency vehicles. A proactive approach must be taken to ensure that emergency vehicles are operated safely. The person that is seated in the "Right Front Seat" should be qualified and understand that they play a critical role in ensuring that the emergency vehicle arrives in a safe and prudent manner on every run.

SAFETY I

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Cancer Risks & Your Doctor

Phil Vasile, McQueeney Fire Department

This session discusses the forms of cancer typically contracted by first responders, their likelihood, symptoms, and what the patient should do to prevent them. A great deal is discussed regarding the interface with the physician.

SAFETY II

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Traffic Incident Management Basics

Justin Eberly, VFIS

Emergency Service Organizations (ESO) respond to a wide variety of incidents involving operations on, or near a highway. These operations pose special risks to personnel performing fire, rescue and EMS functions. Every year a significant number of emergency service personnel are killed or injured while operating on our highways. There may be a wide variety of reasons for these losses, but the point still remains; there are ways to minimize the risks. In many instances, an ESO responds to a "primary incident" on a highway, only to become the victim of a "secondary incident"-the nightmare in which a firefighter,

EMS provider or police officer is suddenly struck and killed by traffic. In the words of James Jouce, Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department, "Firefighters responding to calls need to operate as if someone is trying to run them over."

SAFETY II

10:15 a.m. - Noon

A Healthy Day in a Healthy Way

Roy Mercer, Director of Education, VFIS of Texas

Every day we are troubled with our looks and how we feel, which drives our end result. As much as we try, we are not to be judgmental towards other people, which most of us do privately in our minds. No one person is harder on herself/ himself than he is. Trying to fit somewhere in the world or society, setting good examples, focusing on family and job becomes pretty time consuming. I have said it more than once: it is time to focus on yourself. Meaning, take care of what you have. You are the only you there is and give yourself that energy and the care that you deserve. In this class, I will give you simple ideas on how you can keep moving forward while conditioning yourself. Simply by doing small things each day, you can help yourself. Increasing your awareness towards your health will make you a better person, and by making small adjustments -- not costly ones -- you can go the mile.

SAFETY II

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Courage to Be Safe

Danny Hurt, Pleasant Grove Fire Department; Rayford Gibson, TEEX

Firefighters must have courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved. A different type of courage is required to stay safe in potentially dangerous situations, avoiding needless risk, and tragic consequences. This provocative and moving presentation is designed to change the culture of accepting the loss of firefighters as a normal occurrence.

Building on the untold story of

line-of-duty death (LODD) survivors, it reveals how family members must live with the consequences of a firefighter's death, and provides a focus on the need for firefighters and officers to change fundamental attitudes and behaviors in order to prevent line-of-duty deaths. The central theme promotes the courage to do the right thing in order to protect yourself and the other firefighters and ensure that "Everyone Goes Home" at the end of the day.

LODD PREVENTION
8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
TBA

LODD PREVENTION
10:15 a.m. - Noon
Levels of Honor/ Caring for Families
Texas LODD Task Force

Levels of Honor — The death of a first responder can be a confusing time for an agency. Some agencies want to give their first responder a full—honors funeral, even if they died off—duty. It's important to be able to understand how to provide proper honors to those that have died while making sure the highest honors are given to those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. This presentation will go over handling LODD, Off-Duty deaths, suicides, and other types of first responder deaths.

Caring For Families — Practical ways that departments can care for families of LODD for the long-term. Understanding Benefits — Learning about local, state, and national benefits and who qualifies for them, how they are applied for, and ensuring your department has policies and procedures in place to ensure that benefits are more easily obtained.

LODD PREVENTION
1:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
The First Six Hours After an LODD
Billy Wusterhausen, Response Commander, Texas LODD Task Force
This 1 hour 45 minute presentation will cover what you must do during

the first six hours after a line of duty death. This is intended to allow you to start the process while waiting on assistance to arrive.

LODD PREVENTION
3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
MAYDAY, Are You Ready as the Incident Commander?
Joe Ondrasek, Assistant Chief, Bryan Fire Department
Discussion of a MAYDAY and LODD from the perspective of an Incident Commander and as a Fire Chief.

New member benefits added since October 2016

PHARMSAV – by GoodRx — PHARMSAV has partnered with GoodRx to gather prices, coupons & savings tips for prescriptions at virtually every U.S. pharmacy. In 2016, more than 50 prescription drugs were excluded from insurance coverage and approximately 150 more will be excluded in 2017.

How it works? Use a desktop computer, mobile device or our mobile app. for researching prescription prices, coupons and locations. Just visit the website, enter the name of your prescription and your location to view current prices, discounts, and coupons from local and mail-order pharmacies. Fill your prescription and save! www.pharmsav.com/sffma

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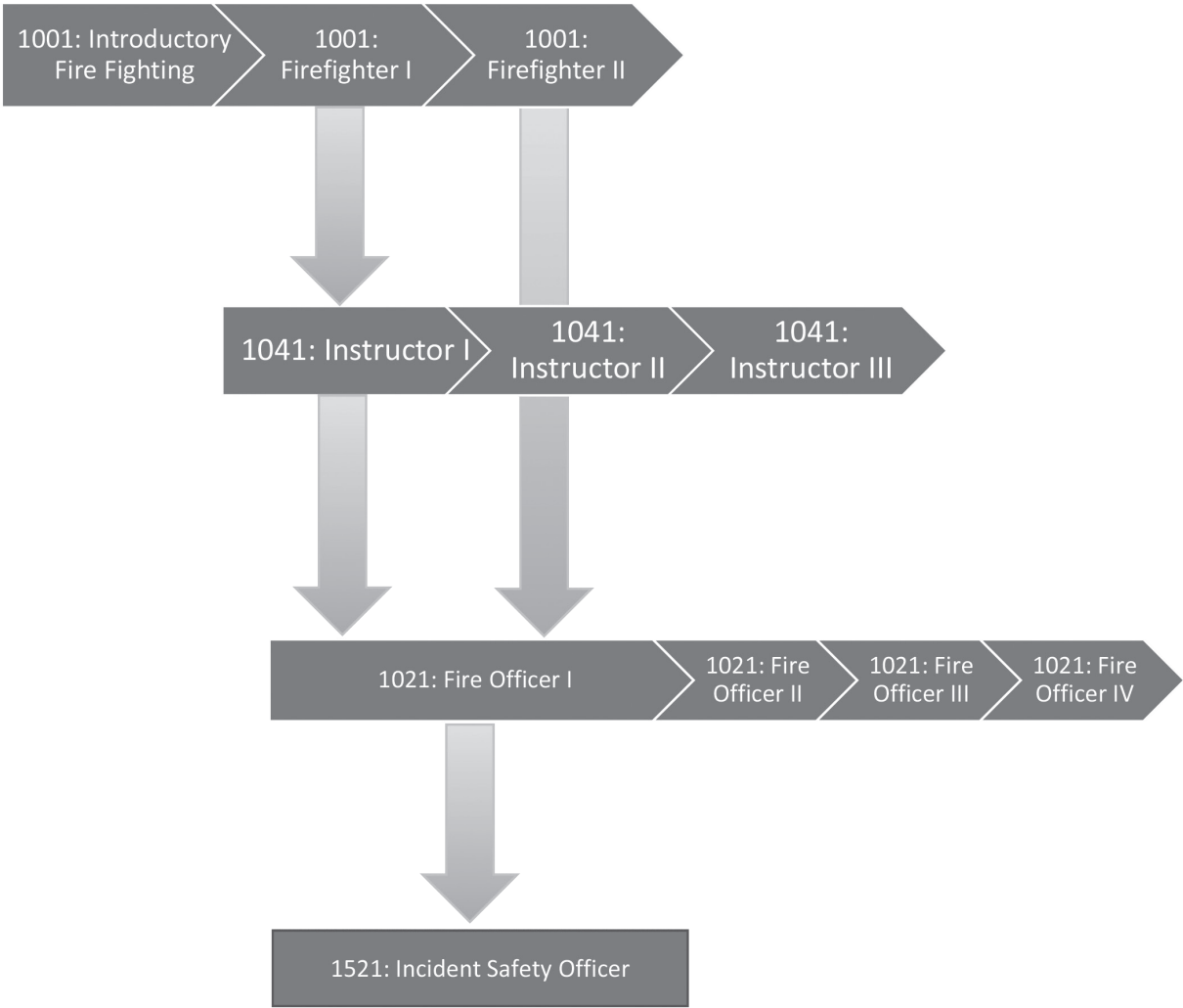
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CERTIFICATION PREREQUISITES

Certain certifications in the SFFMA program require the applicant to already hold, or apply at the same time for other certifications. This can be confusing at times, so we created the chart to help clarify things.

Within each category: lower level certifications are prerequisite.

Between categories: Instructor I requires Firefighter I as a prerequisite; Fire Officer I requires Instructor I and Firefighter II as prerequisites; and Incident Safety Officer requires Fire Officer I as a prerequisite.



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Greetings Fellow TFA Members,

It is hard to believe the convention will soon be upon us. The planning conference in San Marcos was a huge success, with plans being laid for a great convention. The Guadalupe District and San Marcos Fire

Department are working very hard to make this convention a memorable one.

Your TFA Board has been very busy working to increase membership and expanding social media coverage for your association. Your board has been hard at work to increase our support for the fire service of Texas. SFFMA President Perry and I have worked hand-in-hand to increase the support for our hard working firefighters across this great state of Texas. It has been a true pleasure working with President Perry. He always made me feel welcome, comfortable and a part of the crowd.

We are looking forward to a great convention which will include some of our regular workshops but will also include a "meet-and-greet" as a means to gather new members to the TFA. We have broken down some barriers this year but much work remains to be done. As you may know, we did not have a candidate for 4th Vice President this year.

However, Cindy Kennon, past president of the Panhandle Auxiliary, stepped up to fill the duties of interim 4th VP during the year, but we will need to look for candidates for 3rd and 4th Vice Presidents for the upcoming convention.

I will be hosting a hospitality suite at San Marcos this year. I really look forward to everyone coming by and sharing a story, fun, food and fellowship.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to several people that have made this journey through the chairs not only possible, but full of fun and enrichment. First, West Carlisle Fire/EMS, your support has been unending. I simply could not have achieved my goals without the support of my home department. Second, my fellow TFA board members, you stuck by me through thick and thin. It was a challenge to complete this adventure but my newly found, life-long friends, have made it a blast. And last, but certainly not least, my fellow TFA members.

Thank you for your encouraging words, wisdom and undying support of me and this organization. I look forward to many more conventions and becoming a member of the famed "hot flash club."

Thank you again. I will see you all in San Marcos.

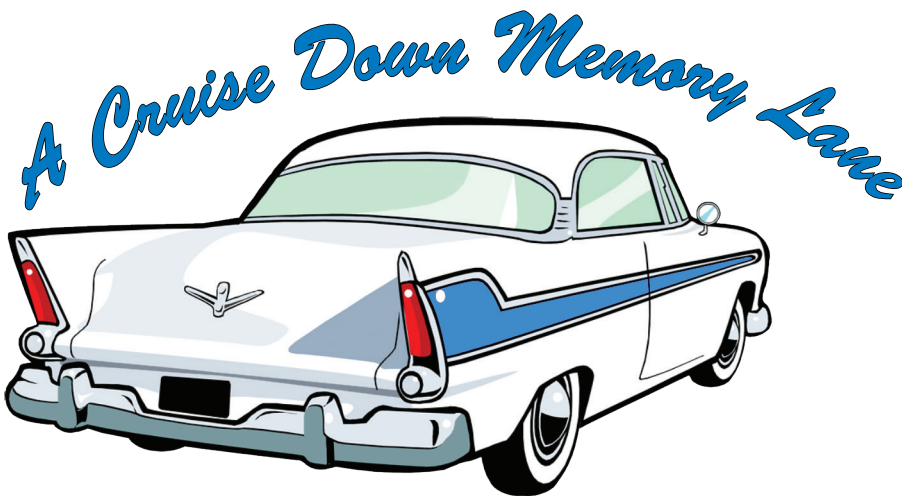
Billie Smith
TFA President 2016-2017

Membership dues



TFA dues are now being accepted; Individuals are \$20, Auxiliaries and Districts are \$30.

Dues can be sent to TFA Treasurer - Kendra Charbula
PO Box 595, Louise, TX 77455
or can be paid at the TFA Booth on Saturday of convention.



Make checks payable to: TFA
Mail to: Brandy Tidwell
PO Box 242
Crosbyton, TX 79322

Cost: \$24.00

Tickets can be picked up at TFA Booth on Saturday, June 10.
Tickets will be sold until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Please join us for a luncheon
Honoring TFA Past Presidents

Tuesday

June 13, 2017 at 11 a.m.

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